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**Friday, April 11, 2008**

**Vol. III, No. 15**



***American Samoa hosts world-renowned artist to paint mural at EOB***

**(UTULEI)** – As the result of an invitation that was extended by Governor Togiola Tulafono during the most recent US Coral Reef Task Force meeting in Washington, DC, world-renowned ocean and wildlife artist and muralist Wyland will be visiting the Territory to work on a marine life mural at the Executive Office Building in Utulei on the north facing wall of EOB starting this afternoon. Wyland's murals provide a lasting message of the importance to conserve and protect our oceans and marine life.

This year American Samoa, along with the rest of the world, is celebrating the International Year of the Reef (IYOR), a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reef ecosystems. The marine life mural will be an inspirational portrait that emphasizes the importance of life underwater, and how we as a community can stand tall and work together to protect our ocean resources. The IYOR will help to strengthen awareness about the ecological, economic, social and cultural value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems as well as improve understanding of the critical threats to coral reefs and generate both practical and innovative solutions to reduce these threats. Through outreach activities such as Wyland's mural project, the Coral Reef Advisory Group hopes to generate urgent action at all levels to develop and implement effective management strategies for conservation and sustainable use of these ecosystems.

The artist Wyland arrived Sunday night, April 6<sup>th</sup>, and will be diving in the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (FBNMS) to derive inspiration for his mural that will commemorate the Festival of Pacific Arts and International Year of the Reef. FBNMS is the smallest and most remote of the Nation's National Marine Sanctuaries and was formed by an extinct volcano. It is home to a diverse assortment of marine life including 271 species of fish and more than 200 species of coral. The Sanctuary is an integral part of American Samoa as it helps to enforce the relationship between Samoan people and their land, sea, and cultural traditions.

In order to carry out the mural project and be as inclusive as possible, Governor Togiola is asking each school in the Territory to appoint two students and an art teacher to assist Wyland with the mural. School administrators are asked to have different students participate each day with Wyland to give opportunities to all of our local students to have interaction and gain from this experience. Students and teachers are being asked to be at the EOB on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 8am to 2pm. Only lunch will be provided. Students, teachers and parents are asked to make all other arrangements for transportation and breakfast. *(Continued on page 8)*

**ASG RADIO PROGRAM**

**With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono**

**On: Showers of Blessings FM 104.7 Saturdays @ 7a.m.- 9:00a.m. Call: 699-8123/8124**

## April is National Child Abuse and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Month

Governor Togiola Tulafono has proclaimed April as National Child Abuse and Teenage Pregnancy Prevention Month in the territory, and he urges all residents of American Samoa to “join in the vital task of protecting our children and young people from harm.”

The theme for this year’s campaign is “Nurture Our Children For Tomorrow.”

In his proclamation, Togiola commends “the dedicated parents, service providers, and all concerned individuals who lead by example in assisting our children.”

The problem of child abuse and teenage pregnancy significantly affects the health, and economic and educational future of many of American Samoa’s children and teenagers. The two are also complex and growing problems in the territory.

According to the Governor, American Samoa is committed to involving government agencies, churches, businesses, media, parents, educational institutions, policymakers, health service providers, and community based organizations in working diligently to provide protection, investigation, health care, education and services to children, teenagers, and families in an effort to prevent child abuse and teen pregnancy.

“Today, many families are experiencing negative social, medical, financial, and emotional impact of children having children,” Togiola proclaimed, adding that some families need to break the cycle of abuse and strengthen family life.

The Governor concluded by saying, “It has been found that through collaborative community efforts, child abuse and teen pregnancy can be prevented through open communication between parents and their children, and through community education awareness and support.”



ASCC Business Department chairperson Dr. Faofua Fa'atoafe (front, center) organizes her students during the ASCC Career Fair last week. ( See story on page 6) [Photo: J. Kneubuhl]

## HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

**On April 5, 1957,** *Paranastatus vertacalis*, a wasp which parasitizes the eggs of the Stick Insect, was introduced to American Samoa from the New Hebrides.

**On April 5, 1963,** Tupua Tamasese Peter Mea'ole, Joint Head of State with Malietoa Tanumafili II since Western Samoa's independence on January 1, 1962, died of lung cancer in Western Samoa.

**On April 6, 1942,** the Utah Construction Company, with Marine Corps assistance, completed the first runway of the Tafuna Air Base. It was 2,500 feet long and 250 feet wide.

**On April 6, 1962,** 10 students, out of a total of 69 enrolled, graduated from American Samoa's School of Nursing.

**On April 7, 1917,** the United States declared war on Germany, and the U.S. Navy seized the German ships *Staatssekretär Solf* and *Elsass*, which had enjoyed refuge in Pago Pago Harbor since August 6, 1914. There was no resistance.

**On April 7, 1942,** the United States began negotiations with General Charles De Gaulle, Chairman of the French National Committee ("Free French") to use Uvea in the Wallis Islands as a U.S. Naval Station, which would be part of the Samoan Defense Group.

**On April 7, 1952,** the American Samoa Government's annual payroll totaled \$807,704.78

**On April 8, 1963,** Tupua Tamasese Peter Mea'ole, Joint Head of State with Malietoa Tanumafili II since Western Samoa's independence on January 1, 1962, died of lung cancer in Western Samoa.

**On April 9, 1872,** the "chiefs and rulers of Samoa" signed a petition addressed to United States President Ulysses S. Grant "praying for the annexation of Samoa to the United States."

**On April 10, 1919,** the German silver money which was shipped to the DHPG's (*Deutsche Handels und Plantagens Gesellschaft* [German Commercial Agricultural Company's]) Pago Pago office on board the *Staatssekretär Solf* (State-Secretary Solf) on August 5, 1914 was discovered buried in the rear of the building formerly owned by the DHPG by the Sheriff of American Samoa, Lieutenant Commander L.W. Strum, USN. Most of the money, which was wrapped in canvas bags, and then enclosed in terra cotta drainpipes cemented together to form a triangle, was missing. The remaining coins were shipped to the Navy's Alien Property Custodian in Washington, D.C.

**On April 10, 1934,** Lieutenant Commander Thomas Calloway Latimore relieved Captain George Bertram Landenberger and became American Samoa's 22nd naval governor (acting: until April 17, 1934).

**On April 11, 1904,** the "first public school, Fagatogo" was opened in American Samoa, "with two teachers and 40 pupils, between the ages of 6 and 12. Mrs. Trevorow, wife of Warrant Machinist Trevorow, was the principal. The natives showed prejudice against a woman teacher for boys."

**On April 11, 1941,** in American Samoa, the measles quarantine, which began a month before, was lifted, thus enabling the Marine Corps' 7th Defense Battalion to move from its holding area at the Naval Station to Camp Samuel Nicholas in Faga'alu.

## American Red Cross Month culminates with special Ball

Governor Togiola and First Lady Mary Tulafono attended the American Red Cross Ball held on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at the Governor H. Rex Lee Auditorium in Utulei.

The event culminated American Red Cross Month, and celebrated the organization's 85<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Governor Togiola Tulafono offered remarks about the kind of dedication it takes to keep our local Red Cross chapter alive, commending not only those who served on the Board in years past, like the late Mrs. Fa'au'uga Achica, but also those of the present leadership - Mrs. Brenda Tanoi and the current Board members.

"American Red Cross in American Samoa belongs to the people," Togiola said. "It is not an organization that calls for volunteers, and it needs money."

The Governor said that over the past two years, he has asked American Samoa Government employees to donate to this worthy cause, but he is shocked that there are only a few ASG employees helping out the local Red Cross chapter through payroll deduction.

"If everyone of the 4,000-plus employees of ASG donated a dollar every payday, the American Red Cross would receive a total of \$4,000 a pay period to help maintain our Red Cross Center and provide the disaster relief service for people in need," Togiola said.

"I will once again urge every director and employees to please sign up for a \$1.00 payroll deduction," he added.

Governor Togiola is doing everything he can to help solicit funds for the Red Cross. This was evident when he acknowledged the advice of emcee Galu Satele, Jr. who invited all the ladies to take a turn dancing with the Governor.

Togiola smiled and said, "Yes, all you lovely ladies are welcome to come dance with me, but it will cost each of you \$20 to dance with your Governor, and the proceeds will go to American Red Cross."

## Feleti Barstow Public Library announces availability of music CD collection

Over 450 new music CDs are now available to members of the general public at the Feleti Barstow Public Library in Utulei. The donated CD collection includes a variety of artists and different styles of music that caters to every taste.

Some popular featured artists include Carlos Santana, salsa singing heartbreaker Ricky Martin, hip hop artist and actor Will Smith, and renowned country music legend Reba McEntire. In addition, piano concertos by famed classical musicians like Johann Sebastian Bach are also available.

And that's not all. The Library has also added an extensive collection of popular Samoan CDs. Close to 100 Samoan CDs featuring old school artists like Tiama'a and more recent singers like Zippo have been added to the collection which also includes Samoan Gospel music.

All you need is a library card in order to access the free music collection.

With such a big selection of different genres, there's definitely something for everyone.

Interested parties may browse through the music CD binders and listen to checked out CDs at the listening station located on the first floor of the Library.

The Feleti Barstow Public Library aims to provide materials in a variety of formats and the addition of the music CD collection proves just that.

More information on the services available at the Feleti Barstow Public Library can be obtained by either calling 633-5816, or stopping by their office in Utulei.



*ASCC Phi Theta Kappa honor society advisor Mark Mageo (center) and President Krystal Soa (right) congratulate inductee Tracey Sene. The PTK held its spring 2008 induction ceremony this past Friday evening.*

*(Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

## **ASCC Phi Theta Kappa Inducts New Members for spring 2008**

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

The Alpha Epsilon Mu Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) held its induction ceremony this past Friday evening to induct its new members for the spring 2008 semester. Family and friends of the new and current PTK members joined ASCC administrators and faculty for an intimate ceremony in the College's new lecture hall to induct 8 of the "best and brightest" into the prestigious Honor Society.

Guest speaker Dr. Lina Galea'i-Scanlan, director of the College's Teacher Education Program, focused on the evening's theme of "Power Beyond Measure". Mrs. Galea'i-Scanlan shared a number of anecdotes from her own experiences in college, and reminded the PTK students that success results from the right balance between discipline and passion. Next, the eight inductees

took the oath to uphold the values of the PTK, and performed the ceremonial lighting of candles representing the mythical Greek "flame of knowledge". With the induction ritual complete, ASCC President Dr. Seth Galea'i, Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham, and Dean of Student Services Dr. Emilia Le'i joined the families and friends of the inductees to congratulate them on their inclusion into the prestigious PTK.

Phi Theta Kappa recognizes and encourages excellence in scholarship among associate degree students. The Greek words Phi Theta Kappa mean wisdom (Phi), aspiration (Theta) and purity (Kappa). The society bases its programs on its four hallmarks: scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship. The society provides more than \$35 million worth of scholarships annually to students nationwide. Each member is automatically nominated for inclusion in the prestigious National Dean's List, and is also enrolled in the PTK Transfer Database, which links senior institutions across the nation offering scholarships to PTK members.

Every semester, PTK advisors Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola, Randall Baker, Elvis Zodiacal, Mark Mageo and Jim Sutherland review the ASCC Dean's List and other relevant data to determine which students qualify for the membership in the Society. Candidates must have taken at least 12 credits, passed their English 150, English 151 and Math 90 classes, and have earned a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. Qualifying students receive an invitation to join PTK, and most of those invited readily accept the offer.

**PRESENT MEMBERS:** Ana-Alicia Alvarado, Ana-Stacia Alvarado, Gwendolyn Emmsley, Grace Faataitai, Tautasi Falanai, Mile Farani, Francis Galuvao, Jerome Grey, Daniel Helsham, Aaron Lin (Vice President), Tautalamaiaso Auau, Eleitino Loi-on, EmmaDora Maez, Laura Maez, Donna Rae Mallari (Secretary/Treasurer), Tupou Sia, Krystal Soa (President), Valentine Talamoni, Carleen Tamapolu, Rhonda Tuia, Faamamali Ualesa.

**SPRING 2008 INDUCTEES:** Edgar Apulu, Danielle Chrichton, Faaloua Faaloua, Leiema Hunt, Ramona Lalaga, Eugenia Lutali, Tamara Toilolo, Tracey Sene.

For more information about the nationwide activities of Phi Theta Kappa, visit their website at: [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org).

## Six ASCC Students Accepted to Broadway Theater Project

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer



Every summer, some of the most distinguished professionals currently working in American theater, television and film act as mentors for approximately 200 promising young performers from across the nation during a three-week apprenticeship program called the Broadway Theater Project (BTP), held at the University of South Florida. Names like Ben Vereen, Debra McWaters, Pierre DuLaine, Terrence Mann, Frank Wildhorn, Charlotte D'Amboise, and Patrick Wilson may not sound instantly familiar, but these seasoned performing arts veterans who serve as Master Artists at the BTP have all gained renown for their accomplishments in their respective theater-related fields.

Last spring, American Samoa Community College (ASCC) dance and drama instructor Carmela Gallace assisted a number of her students with preparing their audition videos for consideration by the BTP. Although few at first took seriously the idea of students from American Samoa getting selected for such a prestigious program, Gallace's faith in her students paid off when four of them received acceptance notices from the BTP, and three of those four went on to actually attend the event. While the BTP provides students with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to study under masters in the theater-related arts of acting, dancing and singing, the service does not come for free.

*ASCC dance and drama instructor Carmela Gallace (front, center) congratulates her six students who have received notices of acceptance to the prestigious Broadway Theater Project, a three-week apprenticeship program in the performing arts which will take place this summer in Florida. Front row: (l-r) Juanita To'o, Gallace, Ruth Tuasivi. Back row (l-r): Johnny Saelua, Shane Ta'afua, Daniel Helsham and Milton Manase. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)*

Although Gallace's students had to do most of their own fundraising to cover the costs of air fare, tuition, room and board, and the usual "extras" that come with travel, for the three who made it to the BTP (Vandella Lealofi, Eric Tue and Jessica Afuola), attending the event opened doors they could never have previously imagined. Both Lealofi and Tue, who by then had recently graduated from the College, received offers to audition for upcoming Broadway productions, while Afuola, who still had one more semester to go before receiving her degree from ASCC, called the BTP "by far, the most instructive experience I have ever had."

Late last fall, Gallace started working with a second group of young performers from ASCC who wanted to film audition videos for this year's BTP. Once again, the efforts of Gallace and her students bore better-than-expected results when no less than six of the ASCC hopefuls recently received their acceptance notices inviting them to attend the BTP this July. For the six successful candidates, Daniel Helsham, Milton Manase, Johnny Saelua, Shane Ta'afua, Juanita To'o and Ruth Tuasivi, the acceptance by the BTP marks their success at only the first half of the process of actually getting there. For the second half, in addition to their regular schoolwork at the College as well as their participation in the upcoming production of the musical play "Aida" in early May, the students each need to secure the necessary funds to enable them to make the trip to Florida this summer.

Last year, the ASCC students who made it to the BTP did so through the combined financial assistance of their families, the College, and most importantly, kind benefactors in the community who believe in giving the Territory's young adults a chance to develop their natural artistic talents. Gallace hopes that once again the community will rise to the occasion in support of its young performers. "Coming from an extensive professional background in this field myself, I've noticed our local young people possess an unusually high aptitude in the performing arts. Our students have the passion, skill, and inner drive necessary to make them successful in show business," says Gallace. As the community looks for new avenues of economic and career development, why not use some of our strongest, most abundant resources, namely this natural talent, to create more job opportunities?"

The six ASCC students invited this summer's BTP all share a vision of making their mark in the performing arts. Daniel Elisara Helsham, son of Paul and Irene Helsham of Iliili, says, "This program will not only enhance my dancing, singing and acting skills, but will give me a chance to get noticed. The experience will hopefully expand my abilities to new horizons." *(Continued on page 6)*

## Six ASCC Students Accepted to Broadway Theater Project *(continued from page 5)*

Milton Tagimaiala Manase of Futiga, son of Pitone and Bernadette Manase, similarly seeks to broaden his talents at the BTP, but additionally reflects, "It will also open me up to the real world and the opportunities that lie ahead. Attending the BTP would bring me a step closer to achieving my goal of becoming an actor. Someday I want to bring back what I learn to help out my people."

Johnny Saelua, son of Mr. Fiu Ioane and Mrs. Catherine Aigamaua Saelua of Leone, enthuses, "I feel extremely grateful to God, and especially to Ms. Gallace for opening up this window of opportunity. For this truly major step in making our dreams a reality, I feel really excited about showing them (the BTP) what we are made of." Fa'afetai Shane Ta'afua, son of Mr. Pene and Mrs. Serafina Filipino Ta'afua of Iliili, describes attending the BTP as "my life, my career, and most important of all, my key to the world of acting." Through his participation in the ASCC "Big Man on Campus" competition, presentations for Polynesian Night, and the play "Fiddler on the Roof", Shane has consistently demonstrated his ambition to succeed as a performing artist, and he says, "This program will be the chance to get me there."

Juanita Simaima To'o, daughter of Mr. Ene Orr and Mrs. Salote Sia To'o of Mesepa, describes her BTP opportunity as "an honor", and says simply, "I want to enhance my talents in singing, dancing and acting." For Ruth Lynn Tuasivi, daughter of Mr. Solomona and Mrs. Fiasoso Tuasivi of Nuuuli, "This project would be the journey of a lifetime, and an opportunity to share with the world the talent that the Lord has blessed me with."

The community will have the opportunity to see all six of the students accepted to the BTP display their talents onstage during the College's upcoming production of the musical play "Aida", which will take place May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the Lee Auditorium. Anyone interested in sponsoring or co-sponsoring any of these fine young artists can contact Gallace for more information by emailing [c.gallace@amsamoa.edu](mailto:c.gallace@amsamoa.edu).

## ASCC Programs Focus on Career Opportunities

*By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer*

In the week leading up to Easter, two divisions at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) provided students with a greater awareness of career possibilities here in the Territory, as well as firsthand experience in working in the public and private sectors. The Upward Bound program held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Activity, followed by a highly successful Career Fair organized by the Business Department for both Upward Bound and regular ASCC students.

### UPWARD BOUND

Hosted by ASCC for many years, the federally-funded Upward Bound program provides educational opportunities and services for eligible high school students who meet federal criteria. The program offers academic and social skills development training to low income and first generation college-bound students with a grade point average between 2.5 and 3.5. A total of 50 Upward Bound students, including 10 from Manu'a, participated in this year's Career Activity. The activity got underway on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, when the collective group of Upward Bound students took part in the Red-Cross Pick-a-Thon, then continued on Monday with the students attending an orientation session held at CNR/Land Grant on the ASCC campus. Following the orientation, the students separated into small groups to spend the next few days as observers and temporary workers in one of the 23 participating American Samoa Government, federal, private and ASCC offices.

"The Career Activity really opened the eyes of our students," said Upward Bound Program Director Elizabeth S. Leuma. "First, through taking part in the Pick-a-Thon, they experienced the satisfaction of community service. Then, working in the offices enabled them to see how professional organizations function. In most cases, the offices also assigned them tasks, which give the students a chance to demonstrate responsibility and feel like part of a team." At the end of their site visits at the offices, each student submitted an evaluation of the experience, and in turn received an evaluation of their performance from the office hosting them. To conclude their Career Activity, the Upward Bound students spent the morning in the ASCC Career Day this past Thursday, before gathering at the Deluxe Café for their own program's closing luncheon with their supervisors and guest speaker Dr. Seth Galea'i, President of ASCC.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ASCC Programs Focus on Career Opportunities *(continued from page 6)*

### ASCC BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Titled "Expand Your Horizons", last Thursday's Career Day event for the general ASCC student body saw the Business Department transform the gymnasium into a "career fairground" that included over 20 booths staffed by representatives from businesses, the government, and education. From early morning till mid-afternoon, students filled the gymnasium as they browsed the many career and education options available locally.

The event got underway with a welcoming ceremony, during which ASCC Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham and American Samoa Chamber of Commerce President David Robinson made special remarks, and for the rest of the day students had the option of either checking out the booths or participating in a series of seminars taking place simultaneously. A number of distinguished speakers lent their insights by participating in the seminars, including Sandra King-Young of PICED, Rep. Vaito'a Hans Langkilde, business student Miss Tualele Samau, and Herbert Thweatt of the American Samoa Small Business Development Center. To wrap things up, business students and the ASCC Ukulele Ensemble provided an hour's worth of entertainment prepared especially for the event.

Business Department Chairperson Dr. Faofua Fa'atoafe praised her students for taking on a lion's share of the organizational duties to make the event a success. "Many of our courses require active participation in management and planning, advertising, salesmanship, accounting and other business-related activities," she explained. "The organization of the Career Day gave the students a chance to display those skills, and you can tell by its success of the event what a fine job they did." Under the supervision of Dr. Fa'atoafe and Business instructors Lam Yuen Jr. and Norma Lefiti, students handled most of the logistical planning, public relations, arranging of presenters and seminar participants, soliciting of sponsors, creation of visual displays, entertainment coordination and other activities which combined to make the event not only informative but also fun for all the participants.

"An event like this gives the business community a chance to make connections with students, and vice versa," said Dr. Fa'atoafe. "All of us have a stake in the economic future of our Territory, and someday these students could emerge as business leaders in our community, so creating a means of forming partnerships early on works to everyone's benefit." With the Career Day now a happy memory, Dr. Fa'atoafe and her students wasted no time in preparing for their next major activity, a business field trip to the Independent State of Samoa which will take place early in April.

For more information on ASCC and its many programs and activities, visit the College's web page at: [www.amsamoa.edu](http://www.amsamoa.edu).

## Save Liuato Tuitele confirmed as new High Court Associate Judge

The Governor's appointment of High Chief Save Liuato Tuitele of Leone as an Associate Judge in the High Court of American Samoa was approved by the Senate with a 16-1 vote.

Save, a retired Chief Warrant Officer (CW-5) in the US Army, will replace former Associate Judge Sagapolutele Malaeola who passed away last year.

The confirmation hearing was attended by over a dozen family members and supporters, including Save's wife Sarah who filled the Senate gallery to witness the confirmation.

During the hearing, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee Senator Tuaolo Vaivao Manaia explained that he and a Fono attorney reviewed the current statute which he said does not clearly state that an associate judge must be a matai title holder, or that each district should be represented on the bench.

Tuaolo's explanation was in response to inquiries from some senators who raised concerns about having another associate judge from Leone serving on the bench, as there is already a sitting associate judge from the same village.

Tualauta Senator Auaumamana Foe'ese said he believed someone from Tualauta should be appointed to fill the job.

Save told Senators that if confirmed, he would dismiss himself from any cases that may involve a personal conflict of interest, including ranking chiefly titles from Leone, as well as cases that may involve family members.

Save vowed to perform his duties to the utmost of his abilities, saying that he will depend on God to guide him in carrying out his new responsibilities.

Save is a 1965 graduate of Samoana High School who holds an Associate of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Hawaii-Hilo; a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management from Chaminade University, Hawaii; and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from McKendree College, Illinois.

He served over 30 years in the US Army as a special agent in the Criminal Investigative Division. Save began his law enforcement career in 1968 as a police officer on the local force where he started as a traffic investigator and then later became a detective in the CID.

## American Samoa hosts world-renowned artist *(continued from page 1)*

“I am very excited about this large-scale project that we are about to undertake. I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to Wyland and his foundation for making this project possible. Through efforts such as this, we hope to foster in our children and community a strong sense of appreciation for our environment and a strong commitment to its conservation,” said Governor Togiola.

The children will not only get to observe the world famous painter up close, they will also be able to work side by side with him and their very own mural project, as well as participate in a variety of other environmentally themed educational activities. ASG staff is working closely with the Coral Reef Advisory Group to make sure that these events are both fun and educational. Employees from the Department of Commerce and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources will be setting up a circuit of different activities including a station to paint fish, a clinic on fishing and fish identification, and a few physical activities related to environmental messages including a Turtle Hurdle which will teach the children important facts about our local sea turtles. The week long event will culminate on Saturday morning with an official unveiling presented by the Governor.

### BIOGRAPHY OF WYLAND

**Robert Wyland** was born in 1956 in Detroit Michigan. Known simply as **Wyland**, he is an artist best known for painting large, outdoor murals of whales and other ocean life throughout the US, as well as Canada, Japan, Australia, Mexico, France and New Zealand. He has been a pioneer in the marine art movement since 1971. This painter, sculptor, and muralist is one of the most prolific and celebrated artists of our time. Wyland paints in watercolors and oils in celebration of underwater sea life in his paintings and bronze sculptures. Wyland divides his time between Oahu, Hawaii; Laguna Beach, California; and Florida. He has a goal of painting 100 Whaling Walls. To date, in addition to his spectacular paintings of a wide variety of marine life, Wyland has completed 96 of his landmark murals, the renowned "Whaling Walls." The first Wyland public, large size mural was of the "Gray Whale and Calf" in Laguna Beach, California in July 1981. The Territory of Guam is the location of his 91st wall entitled "Guam's Ocean Life" (at the International Airport) in February 2004. The 95th mural is a four-sided creation on the Penske Rentals Building in Key Largo, Florida in February 2007. **Wyland** plans to paint his 100th **Whaling Wall** in Beijing, China during the 2008 Olympics.

## Bill creating Economic Development Fund gets Fono approval, now heads to Governor for review

A Senate legislation calling for the creation of an Economic Development Fund to be administered by the Development Bank of American Samoa has been routed to Governor Togiola Tulafono for his review, after the legislation got approval from both Fono chambers.

The bill calls for an annual appropriation of \$1 million to DBAS, to assist the Bank in promoting private enterprise and developing the local economy.

The annual appropriation is to come from the Income Tax Reserve Account which at present, is funded by 25% of all corporate income taxes. But under the bill, this will change.

In addition to corporate taxes, additional funding that will be deposited into the account will come from 25% of income taxes collected from a partnership, joint venture, limited liability company, or other business entity.

In a statement to the House Budget and Appropriations Committee which reviewed the legislation, DBAS president Utu Abe Malae said that the legislation will enable DBAS to loan to the needy as well as create and develop various businesses that will diversify our economy and make American Samoa less dependent on the canneries.

Utu said the legislation creates jobs for local residents and revenues for the government, and the Fono can trust DBAS to properly manage any monies from the Economic Development Fund to benefit the people, businesses, and economy of American Samoa.

According to Utu, diversifying the local economy is a key recommendation from several territorial economic development studies.

He concluded by saying that with the passage of the Senate bill, the Fono will show Congress, the US Department of Interior, and the US federal government that the local Legislature is taking the initiative through local statutory measures to develop American Samoa's economy, instead of relying only on federal financial assistance and Congressional action.